

# Culebra

## National Wildlife Refuge

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### Refuge Facts

- Established: 1909.
- Acres: 1,568.
- Location: the refuge office is located in Lower Camp, a short drive from Culebra airport.
- Administered under Caribbean Island NWRs office.

### Natural History

- The refuge is comprised of lands on the main island of Culebra and 22 smaller islands in the same vicinity.
- The refuge contains diverse habitats including subtropical dry forest, mangroves, brush, and grasslands.
- The largest seabird nesting colony occurs at Peninsula Flamenco, where 60,000 sooty terns nest.
- Mount Resaca contains the largest remaining forest, an area of rock-strewn canyons and ravines forming a unique habitat known as the boulder forest.
- Leatherback and hawksbill sea turtles use refuge beaches for nesting.

### Financial Impact of Refuge

- Two-person staff.
- 6,000 visitors annually.

### Refuge Objectives

To protect and manage significant seabird colonies and endangered marine turtles, as well as protect native tropical vegetative communities.

### Management Tools

- Environmental education/interpretation.
- Law enforcement.
- Wildlife surveys.

### Public Use Opportunities

- Hiking, wildlife observation, and nature photography are available (boat access only) on Cayo Luis Pena and Isla Culebrita.
- All other refuge lands are closed to the public because of their sensitive nature or unexploded military ordnance.

### Calendar of Events

**October:** National Wildlife Refuge Week.

### Questions and Answers

*Does the refuge have an office for visitors?*

An office is located in Lower Camp, a short drive from Culebra airport.

*Are sea turtles found in the vicinity of the refuge?*

Yes, leatherback and hawksbill sea turtles nest on Culebra beaches, and the adjacent seagrass beds provide shelter and food for green sea turtles.

*Is it true that seabirds nest on the refuge in large numbers?*

A nesting colony of approximately 60,000 sooty terns is located at the Peninsula Flamenco unit; however, it is closed to the public due to its sensitive nature.